

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 779 without my signature.

While I appreciate the author's intention to try and streamline the Medi-Cal system and decrease disenrollment of eligible beneficiaries, this bill is duplicative of existing county practices. This bill is not a cost effective way to address the issue. Medi-Cal cases are complex and there are many reasons why benefits are terminated, including the patient no longer needing services or moving out of state. Additionally, this bill is fundamentally flawed by requiring implementation on June 30, 2006. The bill does not provide an appropriation, nor did the Legislature approve funding for this legislation in the 2005-06 budget.

For these reasons, I am returning AB 779 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger